Protection of Workers' Rights

995. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite endorsing Government's stand on liberalization of labour laws, the Second National Commission on Labour has put conditions on easier retrenchement, closure of establishments, the hire and fire policy and engaging of contract labour; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect rights of all workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (d)The Second National Commission on Labour has recommended that prior permission is necessary in respect of lay-off and retrenchment in an establishment of any employment size. However, in the case of establishments employing 300 or more workers if the lay off is continued for more than 30 days, post facto permission of the appropriate Government shall be required. The provisions of Chapter V-B pertaining to permission for closure should be made applicable to all establishments if they are employing 300 or more workers.

In respect of the contract labour, the Commission has recommended that Contract Labour shall not be engaged for core production/services activities. However, for sporadic seasonal demand, the employer may engage temporary labour for core production/serviec activity.

Recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government of India.

Child Labourers

† 996. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has maximum number of child labourers in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the child labourers of less than 10 years, 10 to 14 years and 14 to 18 years old;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.